



American Red Cross

Central Plains Region
Blood Services

Together, we can save a life

Notice to blood drive coordinators and
blood drive sponsors
about improvements to the
Health History Questionnaire,
Effective March 21, 2005.

What is changing?

- Some blood donor eligibility criteria have changed – **most of these criteria changes will allow more people to donate, not less.** Changes have occurred regarding travel outside the United States, heart-related conditions, corneal transplants, tattoos and more (*see reverse side for more details*).
- **We have a new donor questionnaire featuring revised, simplified questions** (*see reverse side*). Our new questionnaire – also called the Blood Donor Record – is the American Association of Blood Banks standard and is used in blood donor centers across the country.
- **The materials all donors are required to read before they donate has new information.** This new information includes a summary of the criteria changes that will impact the donors, a medication deferral list and updated donation information.

How does this affect me?

- Initially, because it's a new process for everyone, it may take a little longer for donors to get through the health history process. Once the questionnaire is complete, the donation process will proceed as usual.
- Since some of the criteria have changed, all questions about the required reading or questionnaire should be referred to a member of our collections staff rather than a volunteer. If your blood drive has volunteers at it, this may change their role a little.
- We are modifying our recruitment materials to reflect these changes. During the recruitment process, your Red Cross representative will work with you to inform your donors of the changes.
- If you have questions or concerns about the changes, please call your Red Cross representative.

When will I start seeing these changes?

- All blood drives will use the new criteria and questionnaire beginning March 21, 2005.

Why are we changing?

- The new questions are simpler and easier to understand, and donors should be able to answer them more accurately and more quickly.